

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 05772 160803Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /022 W
-----093838 170127Z /64

R 151216Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8931
INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5772

E.O. 11652: XGDS-2
TAGS: PINS, PINT, IR
SUBJ: PRELIMINARY REACTIONS TO CHANGE OF SAVAK CHIEF

REF: TEHRAN 5507

1. PRELIMINARY REACTIONS TO APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL NASSER MOGHADAM INDICATED MORE ABOUT THE REPUTATION OF HIS PREDECESSOR, GENERAL NASSIRI, THAN ABOUT MOGHADAM HIMSELF. NASSIRI'S DEPARTURE HAS BEEN GREETED WITH RELIEF IN MANY CIRCLES WHICH BELIEVED HE WAS PRESSING THE SHAH TO REVERT TO A HARDER POLICY ON INTERNAL SECURITY WITH MORE ACTIVE REPRESSION OF DEMONSTRATIONS AND OPPOSITION.

2. AS REPORTED REFTTEL, ONE EARLIER PRESS REPORT SUGGESTED "FORMER POLITICAL PRISONERS" WERE HAPPY WITH MOGHADAM BECAUSE HE OPPOSED THE USE OF TORTURE (THE IMPLICATION BEING NASSIRI DID NOT). A PRIVATE REACTION GIVEN US BY ONE OF THE LEADERS OF NATIONAL FRONTIST OPPOSITION SUGGESTS MOGHADAM IS SEEN AS MORE MODERATE AND DECENT THAN HIS PREDECESSOR, THOUGH STILL PRETTY MUCH A "SERVANT OF THE SHAH." FURTHER REACTION FROM RELIGIOUS OPPOSITIONIST CIRCLES DESCRIBES MOGHADAM AS EXTREMELY BRIGHT AND RELATIVELY MORE UNDERSTANDING OF THE COMPLAINTS RELIGIOUS PEOPLE HAVE ABOUT EVENTS IN IRAN. NASSIRI IS DESCRIBED BY THESE SOURCES AS A "THIEF" WHO EMBEZZLED FUNDS FREELY IN ADDITION TO TAKING VERY REPRESSIVE ATTITUDE
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PAGE 02 TEHRAN 05772 160803Z

TOWARD RELIGIOUS PEOPLE.

3. THERE HAVE BEEN NO FURTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM OR ABOUT MOGHADAM, BUT HE HAS ASSUMED HIS NEW DUTIES.
SULLIVAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL APPOINTMENTS
Control Number: n/a
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Draft Date: 15 jun 1978
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Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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